

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

REC ROOM INC ,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

M.Z.,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO.
2:23-cv-01586-KKE

ORDER REGARDING INITIAL
DISCLOSURES, CHAMBERS
PROCEDURES, JOINT STATUS
REPORT, AND EARLY
SETTLEMENT

I. INITIAL SCHEDULING DATES

The Court sets the following dates for initial disclosure and submission of the
Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan:

Deadline for Federal Rule of Civil
Procedure ("FRCP") 26(f) Conference: 8/19/2024

Initial Disclosures¹ Pursuant to FRCP 26(a)(1): 9/3/2024

Combined Joint Status Report and Discovery
Plan as Required by FRCP 26(f)
and Local Civil Rule 26(f): 9/9/2024

The deadlines above may be extended only by the Court. Any request for an
extension should be made by email to Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at
Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov. If Defendants have appeared, the parties are
directed to meet and confer before contacting the Court to request an extension.

If this case involves claims which are exempt from the requirements of FRCP

¹Initial Disclosures are not to be filed.

26(a) and 26(f), please notify Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at
 Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov.

II. PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSIBILITY

This Order is issued at the beginning of the case, and a copy is delivered by the clerk to counsel for Plaintiff (or Plaintiff, if pro se) and any defendants who have appeared. Plaintiff's counsel (or Plaintiff, if pro se) must serve copies of this Order on all parties who appear after this Order is filed. Service must occur within 10 days after each appearance. Plaintiff's counsel (or Plaintiff, if pro se), is responsible for starting the communications needed to comply with this Order.

III. PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

All counsel and unrepresented parties must review and abide by the applicable Local Rules, Electronic Filing Procedures for Civil and Criminal Cases, court forms, instruction sheets, and General Orders, which can be found on the Court's website at <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov>. Failure to follow the Local Rules and General Orders may result in sanctions.

IV. CHAMBERS PROCEDURES

A. *Communications With Chambers*

Parties should direct initial inquiries to Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov. Ex parte communications with chambers involving any matter other than checking on a decision on a motion under Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(5) or settlement are strongly discouraged. For any other types of inquiries, all parties must be copied on the email when communicating with the courtroom deputy.

B. *Courtesy Copies*

Courtesy copies are required for pleadings that in the aggregate (*i.e.*, the brief plus any declarations or exhibits) are longer than 50 pages, trial exhibits, or upon Court

1 request. If a party believes that courtesy copies may be helpful, such as for complex
2 graphs or images best viewed in color, the party may submit a courtesy copy to chambers
3 for the Court's ease of reference. The courtesy copy must be the version of the
4 document with the header generated by CM/ECF, as this header includes important
5 information (*i.e.*, case number, document number, page number, date filed, etc.).
6 Courtesy copies shall be printed double-sided. Courtesy copies should be three-hole
7 punched, tabbed, and placed in a binder or otherwise bound.

8 C. *Cross-Motions*

9 The Court encourages parties filing cross-motions to agree to an alternate
10 briefing schedule allowing for four briefs (one cross-motion, second
11 cross-motion/opposition, opposition/reply, and reply) rather than a full six briefs
12 (motion, opposition, and reply for each cross-motion). If the parties can reach an
13 agreement on such a schedule and any necessary adjustments to the page/word limits,
14 they shall submit a stipulated motion and proposed order for the Court's approval.

15 D. *Discovery Disputes*

16 As required by LCR 37(a), all discovery matters are to be resolved by
17 agreement if possible. If agreement is not possible, prior to the filing of any
18 discovery motions, the Court directs the parties to request a conference with the
19 Court. *See* FRCP 16(b)(3). The moving party must submit a joint statement to
20 the Court briefly identifying the issue(s) in dispute. The joint statement shall be
21 no more than three pages and shall be filed via CM/ECF. Thereafter, the moving party
22 should contact Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at
23 Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov to schedule a conference.

24 E. *In Camera Review*

25 If the Court orders a party to submit documents for *in camera* review, the party
26 shall email an electronic copy of the documents to Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at

1 Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov. The party shall also deliver a physical copy of the
2 documents to chambers, clearly marked for *in camera* review to avoid inadvertent filing
3 on the docket.

4 F. *Privacy*

5 Pursuant to LCR 5.2(a), all parties shall refrain from including, or shall partially
6 redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal data identifiers from all
7 documents filed with the Court or used as exhibits in any hearing or at trial, unless
8 otherwise ordered by the Court:

- 9 • Dates of Birth – redact to the year of birth, unless deceased.
- 10 • Names of Minor Children – redact to the initials, unless deceased or
11 currently over the age of 18.
- 12 • Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Numbers – redact in their entirety.
- 13 • Financial Accounting Information – redact to the last four digits.
- 14 • Passport Numbers and Driver License Numbers – redact in their entirety.

15 Parties in social security appeals and immigration cases shall comply with LCR
16 5.2(c).

17 G. *Oral Arguments*

18 The Court will generally grant requests for oral argument and will also generally
19 grant requests for status or scheduling conferences. While the Court prefers to hold
20 arguments in person, particularly on motions, the Court will consider requests for remote
21 hearings.

22 The Court also encourages opportunities for junior attorneys and Rule 9 licensed
23 legal interns to appear and to argue in Court, accompanied and supervised by a more
24 experienced attorney. Requests for leave for Rule 9 interns to argue in Court will be
25 freely granted, and the Court will permit multiple attorneys to argue for one party if this
26 creates an opportunity for junior attorneys to participate.

1 All requests pertaining to oral argument should be submitted via email to
 2 Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov.

3 H. *Stipulated Extensions of Deadlines*

4 Please contact Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at
 5 Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov before requesting a continuance of a trial
 6 date to a future date certain, to ensure the Court's availability. Please note the
 7 Court requires approximately 120 days between the deadline for filing dispositive
 8 motions and the trial date. Stipulated motions proposing a case schedule that does
 9 not comply with this requirement will be denied.

10 **V. JOINT STATUS REPORT & DISCOVERY PLAN**

11 All counsel and any pro se parties are directed to confer and provide the Court with
 12 a combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan (the "Report") by September 9,
 13 2024. This conference shall be by direct and personal communication, whether that be
 14 an in-person or virtual face-to-face meeting or a telephonic conference. Conferring by
 15 email is not sufficient. The Report will be used to set a schedule for the prompt
 16 completion of the case. It must contain the following information by corresponding
 17 paragraph numbers:

18 1. A statement of the nature and complexity of the case.

19 2. A proposed deadline for joining additional parties.

20 3. The parties have the right to consent to assignment of this case to a full time
 21 United States Magistrate Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Local Magistrate
 22 Judge Rule 13, to conduct all proceedings. The Western District of Washington assigns a
 23 wide range of cases to Magistrate Judges. The Magistrate Judges of this district thus have
 24 significant experience in all types of civil matters filed in our court. Additional
 25 information about our district's Magistrate Judges can be found at
 26 <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov>. The parties should indicate whether they agree that

the Honorable S. Kate Vaughan may conduct all proceedings including trial and the entry of judgment. When responding to this question, the parties should only respond "yes" or "no." Individual party responses should not be provided. A "yes" response should be indicated only if all parties consent. Otherwise, a "no" response should be provided.

4. For class action cases only: A proposed deadline for filing a Motion for Class Certification. The parties shall propose an agreed-upon briefing schedule for the class certification motion. Non-class action cases shall simply state "N/A."

5. A discovery plan that states, by corresponding paragraph letters (A, B, etc.), the parties' views and proposals on all items set forth in FRCP 26(f)(3), which includes the following topics:

- (A) initial disclosures;
- (B) subjects, timing, and potential phasing of discovery;
- (C) electronically stored information;
- (D) privilege issues;
- (E) proposed limitations on discovery; and
- (F) the need for any discovery related orders.

6. The parties' views, proposals, and agreements, by corresponding paragraph letters (A, B, etc.), on all items set forth in Local Civil Rule 26(f)(1), which includes the following topics:

- (A) prompt case resolution;
- (B) alternative dispute resolution;
- (C) related cases;
- (D) discovery management;
- (E) anticipated discovery sought;
- (F) phasing motions;

(G) preservation of discoverable information;

(H) privilege issues;

(I) Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI; and

(J) alternatives to Model Protocol. The Court expects the parties to work

cooperatively on ESI search terms and protocols and to disclose to each

other the search terms and protocols used in responding to discovery.

7. For patent cases only: The case name, case number, and court or other tribunal for any pending or prior action challenging the patent(s) at issue in the case.

8. The date by which discovery can be completed.

9. Whether the case should be bifurcated; e.g., by trying the liability issues before the damages issues; or bifurcated in any other way.

10. Whether the pretrial statements and pretrial order called for by Local Civil Rules 16(e), (h), (i), and (k), and 16.1 should be dispensed with in whole or in part for the sake of economy.

11. Whether the parties intend to utilize the Individualized Trial Program set forth in Local Civil Rule 39.2 or any ADR options set forth in Local Civil Rule 39.1.

12. Any other suggestions for shortening or simplifying the case.

13. The date the case will be ready for trial. The Court expects that most civil cases will be ready for trial within a year after filing the Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan.

14. Whether the trial will be jury or non-jury.

15. The number of trial days required.

16. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all trial counsel.

17. The dates on which trial counsel may have complications to be considered in setting a trial date.

18. If, on the due date of the Report, all defendant(s) or respondent(s) have not

1 been served, counsel for plaintiff shall advise the Court when service will be effected,
 2 why it was not made earlier, and shall provide a proposed schedule for the required
 3 FRCP 26(f) conference and FRCP 26(a) initial disclosures.

4 19. Whether any party wishes a conference with the Court before the entry of any
 5 order pursuant to Rule 16 or setting of a schedule for this case.

6 20. The date(s) that each nongovernmental corporate party filed its disclosure
 7 statement pursuant to FRCP 7.1 and Local Civil Rule 7.1.

8 21. A certification that all counsel and any pro se parties have reviewed the Civil
 9 Rules, the Local Rules, and the applicable Electronic Filing Procedures.

10 22. A certification that all counsel and any pro se parties have reviewed and
 11 complied with Judge Evanson's Standing Order Regarding 28 U.S.C. § 455(b)(2) and
 12 Canon 3(C)(1)(b) of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges.

13 If the parties are unable to agree on any part of the Report, they may answer in
 14 separate paragraphs. No separate reports are to be filed. If the parties wish to have a
 15 status conference with the Court at any time during the pendency of this action, they
 16 should notify Courtroom Deputy Diyana Staples at
 17 Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov.

18 **VII. EARLY SETTLEMENT CONSIDERATION AND NOTIFICATION**

19 If settlement is achieved, counsel shall immediately notify Courtroom Deputy
 20 Diyana Staples at Diyana_Staples@wawd.uscourts.gov.

21 The parties are responsible for complying with the terms of this Order. The Court
 22 may impose sanctions on any party who fails to comply fully with this Order.

23 Dated this 29th day of July 2024.

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 Honorable Kymberly K. Evanson
 United States District Judge